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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle control configuration comprising:  
a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;  
the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;  
the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;  
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and  
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle ~~modification~~ modification; and  
wherein the lower hierarchical level is a suspension coordinator subsystem.
2. (original) The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:  
the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level.
3. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 2, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:  
a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;  
the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;  
the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;  
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and

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wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification;

wherein the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level;

wherein the downward signals include a request for mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level; and

wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of the mode of operation.

4. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;

the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification;

wherein the downward signals include a request for enablement; and

wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of enablement.

5. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;

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the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;

wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the downward signals include vehicle state measurements of the vehicle.

6. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;

the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the upward signals include vehicle state measurements of actuators controlled by the lower hierarchical level.

7. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;

the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;

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wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;  
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level  
independent of the request for vehicle modification; and  
wherein the upward signals include status of the lower hierarchical level independent of  
the current vehicle behavior.

8. (currently amended) A vehicle control system comprising:  
a vehicle motion control subsystem having a control input and a control output;  
a suspension coordinator subsystem including a subsystem input and a subsystem  
output;

wherein the vehicle motion control subsystem outputs downward signals out of the  
control output to the subsystem input of the suspension coordinator subsystem;

wherein the suspension coordinator subsystem outputs upward signals out of the  
subsystem output to the control input of the vehicle motion control subsystem;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the ~~lower hierarchical level~~  
suspension coordinator subsystem independent of the request for vehicle modification.

9. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:  
the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the suspension  
coordinator subsystem.

10. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 9, wherein:  
the downward signals include a request for mode of operation of the suspension  
coordinator subsystem; and  
the upward signals include a confirmation of the mode of operation.

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11. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:  
the downward signals include a request for enablement; and  
the upward signals include a confirmation of enablement.
12. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:  
the downward signals include vehicle state measurements of the vehicle.
13. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:  
the upward signals include vehicle state measurements of actuators of the suspension coordinator subsystem.
14. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:  
the upward signals include status of actuators of the suspension coordinator subsystem independent of the current vehicle behavior.
15. (currently amended) A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:  
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;  
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;  
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;  
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and  
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle ~~modification~~ modification; and  
wherein the lower hierarchical level is a suspension coordinator subsystem.

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16. (original) The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:  
the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level.

17. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 16, wherein:~~ A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:  
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;  
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;  
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;  
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;  
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification;  
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level;  
wherein the downward signals include a request for mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level; and  
wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of the mode of operation.

18. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:~~ A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:  
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;  
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;  
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;

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wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;  
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level  
independent of the request for vehicle modification;  
wherein the downward signals include a request for enablement; and  
wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of enablement.

19. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:~~ A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:

providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;

communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;  
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level  
independent of the request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the upward signals include vehicle state measurements of actuators controlled by the lower hierarchical level.

20. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:~~ A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:

providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;

communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;

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wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the upward signals include status of the lower hierarchical level independent of the current vehicle behavior.